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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 8497**

Akeyuki KOMATSU et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0654A

Serial No. 10/578,200 :

Filed May 4, 2006 :

COLD-CATHODE TUBE LIGHTING DEVICE
FOR USE IN A PLURALITY OF COLD-CATHODE
TUBES LIT BY TWO LOW-IMPEDANCE
POWER SOURCES

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____;
and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.
_____.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or


b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) previously submitted with the initial filing of the National Phase Application on May 4, 2006 (Attachment D),
 - c. ☒ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at pages 5-6,
 - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
- U.S. Patent No. 6,714,111 corresponds to JP 2002-353044;**
U.S. Patent No. 5,959,412 corresponds to JP 8-273862; and
U.S. Patent No. 7,038,397 corresponds to JP 2005-63941
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Akeyuki KOMATSU et al.

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August 3, 2006

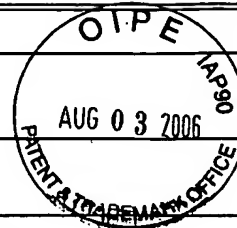
FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: August 3, 2006

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2006_0654ASERIAL NO.
10/578,200APPLICANT
Akeyuki KOMATSU et al.FILING DATE
May 4, 2006

GROUP



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,714,111	3/2004	Suzuki			
	AB	5,959,412	9/1999	Ushijima			
	AC	7,038,397	5/2006	Komatsu et al.			
	AD						
	AE						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AF	03/056885	7/2003	WO			
	AG	6-19299	3/1994	JP			Partial
	AH	5-90897	12/1993	JP			Partial
	AI	2002-353044	12/2002	JP			Abstract
	AJ	02/078403	10/2002	WO			
	AK	2004-119206	4/2004	JP			Abstract
	AL	6-301034	10/1994	JP			Abstract
	AM	8-288086	11/1996	JP			Abstract
	AN	8-273862	10/1996	JP			Abstract
	AO	2004-241136	8/2004	JP			Abstract
	AP	2005-63941	3/2005	JP			Abstract
	AQ	8-122776	5/1996	JP			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.